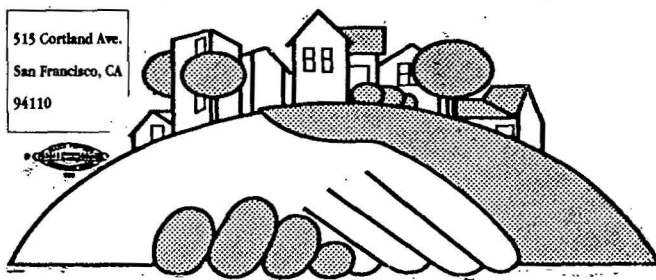


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MARKET HEIGHTS COMPLETED



The newly completed Market Heights apartment complex, designed to bring more affordable housing to San Francisco, is located in Bernal Heights, on the hillside behind the Alemany

Tenants Start Moving In

by Gareth Barkin

The six year long struggle to build the Market Heights apartments came to a successful close last week, when the first tenants began to move in. While not all apartments have been completed, at least seventy percent of the units were occupied as of the first of April, said Stephen Dunn, Housing Director for the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation. The remaining tenants should be able to move into the buildings, which overlook the Alemany Farmer's Market, within the next few weeks, and an open house celebration is planned for May.

A celebratory atmosphere prevailed during the first few days of occupancy, as individuals and families moved into their new homes. Many of those moving in had little other hope for affordable housing, and had gone to great lengths to

ensure their inclusion in the Market Heights' tenants list.

"I camped out overnight to turn in my application," remembered Maria Antonio, "we got there pretty early on the evening before, and we were still something like 17th in line." Other tenants had gone to similar lengths in the interest of securing a place in an ever-dwindling supply of affordable housing in San Francisco.

Demand for the units was overwhelming, as evidenced by the application drop-off, which gave some priority to those who turned in their forms first. During the official application day, the line in front of the Neighborhood Center wound, at times, nearly around the block — from Cort-

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 2

Community Congress Works with Mayor Brown



Mayor Willie Brown listens to the concerns of a Bernal resident at the 16th annual Community Congress

by Demece Garepis

What started as a pleasant, quiet 16th annual community Congress quickly transformed to a series of crowded, busy working sessions culminating in a challenging face off with Mayor Willie Brown. Supervisor Kevin Shelley presented certificates of appreciation and the cited how the Board of Supervisors pays close attention to community input. State Senator Miton Marks also attended. Over 300 neighbors gathered last March 9, 1996 at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center to work on Senior, Community Organizing, Youth, and Housing - all hot issues in Bernal Heights. Neighbors chose one of these issues to work on in a 90 minute session that day and each group reported back to the Mayor.

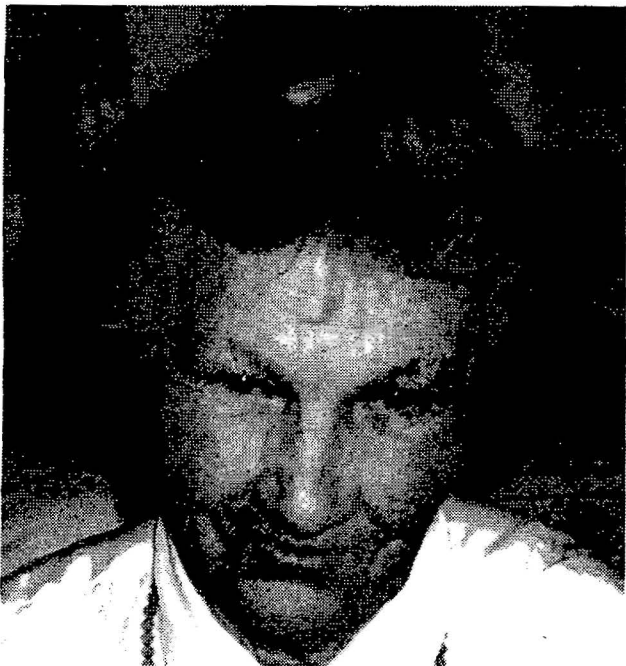
COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS DEMAND FUNDING FOR BERNAL ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

David Gavrich, an outspoken community activist, demanded that the Neighborhood Center get a community organizer funded from Prop Q

moneys, which has a reserve set aside for community activism. Mayor Brown admitted he did not know about the intricacies of Prop Q, a proposition voted on by San Franciscans last year in an attempt to fund more community housing, but which has yet to be allocated. His long term goal is to

build a large pot of money set aside for hiring a community organizer/ representative from each of the 13 San Francisco neighborhoods who would report directly to the mayor. He also wishes to set up community agendas exactly as the neighbors have done with the Congress,

Farewell, Dear Mary



Mary Foy, 1917-1996

Bernal Heights says goodbye to one of its most beloved residents...page 15.

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The *New Bernal Journal* is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The *New Bernal Journal* is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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MARKET HEIGHTS...

land Avenue well up Andover. In all, 1,395 applications were received for the 46 available units.

"It was very tough — I had to fight to get in here," said Maria Moreno when asked about her application process, "I could write a book about it." The applications, handled by Caritas Management, were rated on a variety of criteria, all of which were considered in the final choice. 'Previous evictions' became a trouble point for Stacey Barnes, whose record was confused with another Stacey Barnes — a person who evidently had quite a colorful eviction history. "Luckily, I got all that cleared up eventually," she said with relief.

The difficult lives of some tenants made Market Heights' opening seem like an opportunity for a new beginning. "I was a battered wife," said Barnes, "and I have two kids. I had to leave my husband because of the situation. If this place hadn't opened up when it did, we would have had to leave the city. And even if we did, I don't know what would've happened — if you can't pay rent, you can't pay rent."

Maria Antonio heard about the new apartments in the shelter where she was staying. From there she pursued the application process, and was successful in obtaining a unit in one of the new buildings. "I just reached my limit at the shelter; you can only stay there a year," she said. "This place worked out great for me... and it's beautiful."

Moreno, her new neighbor,

agreed. "It's wonderful — I'm happy," she proclaimed. Her children seemed to share the sentiment, as they ran up and down the stairs, playing in their new home.

The project, which first broke ground in November of 1994, encountered its' share of difficulties over the years. Originally drawn up as a 120 unit development, which would have reached out over the Farmer's Market parking lot, the plans were scaled back several times in compromise with those opposed to the project. As it turned out, the buildings occupy only the hillside behind the parking lot, and provide 46 units of housing, designed for people of low to middle income.

"Everyone had their own idea about what was acceptable," said Helen Helfer, Executive Director of the B.H.H.C., who has spent much of the past six years making the project a reality. "I remember Terrence Hallinan [a Supervisor at the time] standing in the Farmer's Market saying '[The housing platform] shouldn't come any closer than 90 feet from the stalls.' So we scaled back the plans."

Helfer was also quick to call attention to the \$6.1 million in construction contracts which Market Heights brought to Bernal. "When I drive by there, I feel so proud that we're contributing, even in a small way, to the economic development of this city."

First proposed in 1990, the project soon faced opposition which managed to get a proposi-

tion on the November 1992 ballot which would have put an end to the plan. In the literature supporting the proposition, Market Heights opponents claimed it would interfere with the existing marketplace, and urged voters to, "Save the Farmer's Market." In fact, none of the proposed plans interfered with the Farmer's Market, only a portion of its' parking lot. In the end, voters rejected the measure by nearly a two to one margin.

Still, when asked whether she expected the process to take as long as it did, Helfer said, "Not at all — I had no idea. It has been a long process, and painful. But the six years of effort is more than balanced by the 50 years of affordable housing we created in our neighborhood."

Stephen Dunn, also key in the project's development, had his own take on the process. "In housing development they say that if you help one person that's truly in need, that you've done your job. I think, clearly, that we've done at least that."

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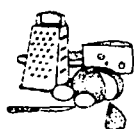
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DPW cutting down trees in Bernal

by Gareth Barkin

Bernal Heights neighbors have become concerned over the recent felling of mature trees along some streets. The Department of Public Works, on March 6, approved the removal of over 30 trees as a part of its Urban Forestry Program's shift toward maintenance of trees on major thoroughfares only. Property owners were apparently informed that they would become responsible for maintenance of any trees in front of their lots, or that they could have DPW remove them at no charge. Dan McKenna, of the Urban Forestry department, estimated maintenance costs of most trees to be around \$80 per year, with some species as low as \$30 per year.

Community activist David Gavrich, along with the Northwest Bernal Block Club, has taken up the fight to preserve the trees. Calling the tree-cutting ludicrous, and with the opinion that property owners should not be the only ones to determine the character of the neighborhood, Gavrich helped organize a meeting on Saturday, March 30, to address the issue.

"The meeting ... was packed with Bernal folks who were stunned by what happened on Coleridge," said Gavrich, in reference to a street which has already seen the removal of several mature trees.

DPW, however, claims the process is part of their plan to add more trees to Cortland Avenue, and to plant more "suitable" trees everywhere. The majority of trees scheduled for removal are also scheduled to be replaced by young trees. Additionally, at least nine trees will be planted in new locations, which did not previously have trees. At least eight locations, however, are scheduled to have trees removed with no replacements.

For more information, call Bud Ryerson at 282-5268, or Dan McKenna of DPW at 554-6700, or DPW's main number, 554-5800.

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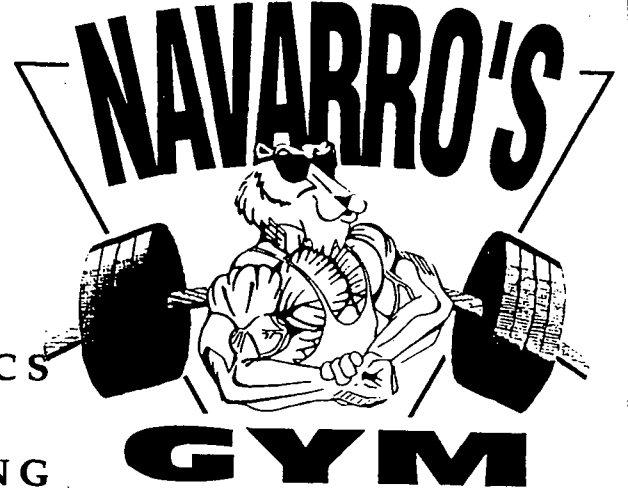
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A Right to Healthcare

An interview with Dr. Sandra Hernandez,
Director of the city's Department of Public Health

by Susan Kitazawa, R.N.

Dr. Sandra Hernandez lives here in the neighborhood. Would you be willing to interview her for the New Bernal Journal? When a friend on the NBJ's advisory committee called with this request, I was delighted to have this chance to meet with Dr. Hernandez. We had worked together, about ten years ago, when she was a medical resident at San Francisco General Hospital.

Well-liked by patients and staff, she was smart and caring — a very good doctor and a very real person. She was always there for other people and really listened to their day-to-day problems, even right after she lost one of her own brothers to AIDS. When a patient came late, she would stay to see them. When her brand new car was stolen, her only comment was, "A lot worse things happen to people."

On my way to the interview, I wondered if she would still be the same person that I remembered. Would she still care as much as she had, now that she was the Director of the Department of Public Health? Now that she was on the new mayor's transition team?

As I listened to her talk about her work, I felt reassured that she is still there for people, and still listening.

What do you see as the major challenges facing you as the Director of San Francisco's Department of Public Health?

ment of Public Health?

I think the major challenge for the whole department is essentially how to create a *lasting* system of care for people, regardless of their economic, social, or insurance status. When President Clinton talked about universal health coverage, the vision was that, regardless of whether they worked part-time, full-time, or were unemployed, *everybody* would be assured some basic set of services. That didn't happen at the federal level, but I think we *have* to make that happen at the local level. In this city, we have the capability of making this vision actually come to fruition.

The Republicans' fanaticism for balancing the federal budget is saying let the states and the local jurisdictions solve their own problems. That gives us some opportunity to be creative, to think about how to do this. The *immediate* problem we have is, with the state thinking that the private sector could do Medi-Cal better than the public sector has done, we are now competing to serve that population. If we don't do managed care well, then we are likely to be facing a strictly indigent-run system, which is financially not viable. You would have a real tiering of what you could provide, what Medi-Cal patients could get and where they could go and what indigent patients could get and where they

could go. So, the challenge for us is to create one *good* system of care, in terms of quality and in terms of scope of benefits, for everyone.

Also, in this city, we need to be able to do this in the face of several major epidemics. We have an epidemic of AIDS. AIDS is the leading cause of death of men of all ages in this city. We have a rampant epidemic of substance abuse. We have the overlapping epidemic of violence, where conflict is solved with a knife or a gun.

So, we've really got to get beyond what we do on a one-on-one visit with a patient and take health into a broader scope and say, "How do you really get at these interwoven issues of kids who feel hopeless about the future because there aren't a lot of alternatives out there for them?" I think we really have to begin to address that as we design the new health care system for San Francisco.

I think in this vision it's a good time to reference Mayor Brown. I'm extremely excited about working with him and working for him. He is a very complex man. He's very bright, and he has the ability to problem-solve on complex, inter-related issues. His background of being a legislator gives him a tremendous advantage in dealing with the Board of Supervisors. Being both a city and a county, if the mayor's relationship with the Board is not a functional one, it's very hard to do any creative problem-solving for the city.

It was an incredible honor to be asked to serve on his transition team. Reading between the lines, I think that he wanted to acknowl-

edge that there are places in the city where we are effectively fulfilling a mission while maintaining an accountability for tax dollars. Primarily what I did was to try to facilitate a process for him to consider and interview citizens of San Francisco for leadership roles on some of the key commissions.

Having grown up in pro-labor family, how do you balance your own concern for people working "in the trenches" with the reality



Dr. Sandra Hernandez

of funding cuts?

I did grow up in a blue collar, working class family. My mother worked; my father worked. My father was a shop steward. That was part of our growing up. I grew up with very strong work ethics.

The labor movement in general was always a movement that was promoting good working conditions, fair and equitable pay, and it stood for a notion that people had a *right* to health care.

Now I think organized labor has kind of a knee-jerk response to the need for changes brought about by a health care industry that's changing at a hundred miles an hour. The battleground is labor vs. management, as if we dreamed up managed care and as if we think it's the godsend for how to do healthcare. That is *not* how it happened. At some point, managed care will control utilization too much. People will stand up legislatively or otherwise and say, "Enough is enough". But we're not there yet. And so we're trying to figure out how to survive within those dollar constraints and how to meet growing unmet needs, while not creating an economic down spiral for the workforce.

We have not yet been able to forge a relationship with labor that acknowledges that predicament and that allows us to come up with a unified way of solving it, even

though we *should* be allies in this. In the big picture, the irony is that the labor movement used to put forward political leadership. We need people who share the vision that health care is a right for everyone.

You have to look at how you spend your dollars with an eye towards being equitable to society, not just to the workforce. What the department is trying to do, under my leadership, is to reconcile the need to serve people who have no jobs or no health benefits, whose kids aren't covered by health insurance, with the need to be sensitive to the fact that employees want to make a decent living. They've got to put their kids through school, and San Francisco is an expensive place to live. Those things are real. This has created a great deal of friction in terms of what we consider traditional labor-management relations. We have to look at what is considered fair, given the choices.

The private sector is saying that we don't need a public sector. I don't believe that that's uniformly true. We see patients who haven't bathed and are forty-five minutes late for their appointments and have hypertension out of control and diabetes out of control. They aren't going to fit into a private sector model very easily.

Many people are surprised to learn that you still work in a clinic setting each week. Why do you continue to provide direct patient care when you have so many other responsibilities?

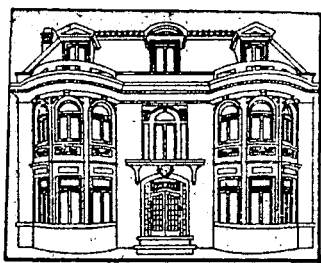
Well, I was trained to be a doctor, and the truth is, I *like* patient care. A lot of people go into administration because they don't like patient care. That's just not me.

I've always had a clinic at San Francisco General, ever since I came here to do my training in 1984. It's one thing to set policy and read reports, but it's a reality base for me to be able to go once a week into the hospital and see patients and have them talk to me about the pharmacy, the waiting room, their SSI checks. It's *grounding* for me; it's satisfying. Part of it for me is holding on to an identity of who I am. Part of it is just the patients that I see.

I find my AIDS clinic work very challenging. It keeps me on my toes. I have to know what the medications are that people are using and what's being researched. You know, it's sort of where I grew up as a doctor. I like going back there once a week and being able to give back to that institution and participate in it. So it's a good balance for me.

Speaking of balance in your life, can you say something about your life outside of work? You've been living in Bernal Heights for a while. What drew you to the neighborhood?

Well, I've been a home owner in Bernal Heights for two years. I've actually lived in Bernal for about four and a half years. It's just a very



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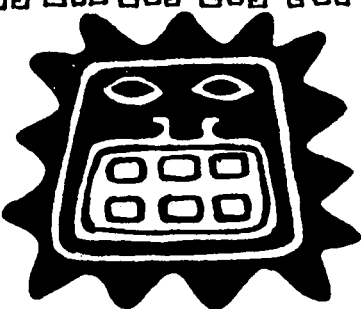
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Down in the Dirt

Confessions of a Professional Gardener

by Garry Bernhardt

Facts of Life on the Hill, Part 1

The first year I gardened on Bernal Heights, I watched with horror as the wind blew away the petals of my Iceland poppies as soon as they opened. Having nurtured them so carefully through the winter, it broke my heart. Stubborn and inexperienced, it took a long time to acknowledge that wind was a real fact of gardening here, and couldn't be denied or wished away.

In a way Bernal Heights is like a banana belt with hurricanes. Of course this depends entirely on where you are. The south slope faces the Alemany Gap, and during our foggy season — now imminent — the winds and low clouds come roaring through from the Pacific Ocean to the west. The north slope is a lot more protected. If you walk around the antennas at the very top of the hill, you can sometimes feel the differences in each of the four cardinal directions. The south is much sunnier and warmer as well, especially in winter when the sun is so much lower in the sky that it doesn't reach portions of the north. The west really gets the brunt of the ocean winds. But buildings and streets are another big factor.

Streets and neighbors' houses can either block the gusts or channel them right into your front yard.

Basically what the wind does is carry moisture away — away from the foliage and away from the soil. It's like drying your hair with a blower, which is very inhospitable and stressful to plants. It causes leaves to transpire (breathe) more rapidly and this uses up even more water. On some very sensitive plants like Japanese maples the leaves "burn" from drying out, and look scorched. The relentless blowing, always from the same direction during our summer foggy weather, causes far more damage than the random winds from winter's storms.

Well, fortunately, there are at least a few things gardeners can do to make life a lot easier for our plants. The first line of defense, naturally, is a windbreak. This can be plants or structure or both. For aerodynamic reasons, a tall, solid wall isn't as effective as a series of buffers to break up the wind. But since another very characteristic element of Bernal is our small lots, you want to minimize the windbreak's width in order to maximize the rest of your garden. So we have to settle for a good strong fence or a narrow hedge of wind tolerant materials. (A real virtue of a hedge, or living wall, is you can let it grow a lot taller than the six foot height limit).

If you do choose a hedge, first decide whether you want a formal or hard-edged look — which means frequent shearing — or a looser, more informal one which might only need a rough pruning in spring and fall. For a sheared hedge you

want to choose small-leaved plants, as larger leaves look ratty all chopped off. There are many good choices including cypress, American arborvital, Junipers, *Melaleucas* (paperbarks), and *Leptospermums* (Australian tea trees). For a less sheared look, there are even more choices: *Eleagnus*, *Griselinia*, *Myoporum*, *Pittosporums* and glossy privet.

Ceanothus and *Echium* (Pride of Madeira), the big yellow lupines, Bougainvillea, lantanas, New Zealand flax, *salvias*, etc.

The third tactic is to mulch like crazy. This keeps the soil from drying out. Although it can't protect foliage from wind-burn, mulching is virtually the nicest and most beneficial thing you can do for your plants — it's just miraculous! I'm

spreading fertilizer, spraying, planting, transplanting, etc. I remember times when the winds have been so mean and so steady — sometimes for weeks on end — that it took a lot of pleasure out of just being out in the garden. So we might as well confront the enemy right off, lest you face short days and watch your petals blow into the bay.

And last but not least, now's the best time to fertilize everything in your garden. It's also the optimal time to go after those darned weeds, while they're still tender and the soil's still moist. They'll tug out easily and you'll get them before they can flower, go to seed, and thus perpetuate themselves (Old gardening maxim: "One year's weed, seven years seed" — Old gardening riddle: "When's the best time to pull out a weed? *When you first see it!*"). For similar reasons it's best to go after pests early on, before their populations get out of hand. Prune spring flowering shrubs after they've finished flowering, and mulch, mulch, mulch!

Many thanks to Engenie Marck who suggested this topic. Eugenie also wonders about a Bernal Heights garden tour — a very peachy idea. We'd have to act quickly as the next issue of the *New Bernal Journal* won't be out 'till June — prime time for garden viewing. Would you like a gentle mob of garden maniacs, hortisexuals and other fiends of the earth oohing and ahing over your creation? Please let me know ASAP c/o the NBJ, and we'll see what can be done. As always your questions and comments are heartily welcomed.

Stubborn and inexperienced, it took a long time to acknowledge that wind was a real fact of gardening here, and couldn't be denied or wished

You can even have flowers with Lavatera or Escallonia, or flowers and berries with *Cotoneasters* and *Pyracanthas*, or dark wine-purple foliage with *Dodonea*.

On matters like this, a good nursery person can help tremendously. An equally invaluable resource is the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, the 'Gardener's Bible.' I'm always looking things up in its', "Guide to Plant Selection," including (I confess) "Plants for Windy Areas."

The second major way to deal with wind is to use wind tolerant plants. These are babies which not only evolved to withstand desiccation, but even look good in spite of it. You could site them in the windiest areas, or place them (individually or massed) on the windward side to protect more delicate specimens or whole areas — or do a garden full of them. There are some wonderful candidates too, like palms, *Arbutus*, rich blue

talking about a good and thick (at least 3") layer of organic materials. Try leaves, grass clippings, wood chips, steer manure, anything you can get your hands on. Besides inhibiting evaporation, mulching also suppresses weeds, it slowly breaks down and feeds the soil. It's Mother Nature's way: the autumn leaves fall, protect, and then enrich the earth. And it looks good too, so much more natural than bare ground with nary a fallen leaf to be seen. Best of all is to leave the fallen leaves in place all winter, then add new mulch in the spring as they start to break down.

Finally you should water more in the windy season. Generally the winds don't pick up 'till early afternoon, so if you're doing overhead watering, do it early in the day. I have a nice old list of tasks you shouldn't do in the wind. Also, it includes just about everything broadcasting seed, cutting flowers,

mixed neighborhood; there are people with kids; it's a comfortable place to live.

I live by St. Mary's Park. For me, coming from Arizona, having a small front yard, a small back yard, and a little garden was important to me, having a place where you could put your hands in the dirt. For me, it's a little haven in the city. There are restaurants and stores. I've got a lot of friends that live in Bernal Heights. It's close to the hospital. It's accessible to everywhere in town. It feels very comfortable here. I can walk and feel like I belong.

The neighbors are friendly. Everybody knows I work for the Health Department. They know what time I leave in the morning; they know what time I get home at night. They keep an eye on the house when we're gone. It has a neighborhood feeling. St. Mary's Park has a little neighborhood group. We keep an eye on each other in terms of crime and in terms of traffic. It feels good to be part of a community.

You've accomplished a lot more than many people have by the time they're your age. What else do you hope to do?

Well, I still have a lot of dreams for San Francisco Health Department. I don't have dreams much beyond that. I never really dreamt that I'd be the Director of Health either. For me a job is more than just where you go Monday through Friday. Are you challenged? Are you learning something? Are you contributing at least as much as you're getting out of it?

Bernal Holds Power Plant Forum

by Demece Garepis

Over 150 concerned neighbors came to the Power Plant Forum on Tuesday, February 19th at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center to hear the pros and cons of the proposed plant at Bay View/Hunter's Point. Technical experts and community leaders from Bay View/Hunter's Point for and against the plant were panel members.

Panel members included Rob Morgan, from San Francisco Energy who is proposing the power plant, Dr. George Davis from the Bay View/Hunter's Point Senior Center, Cal Broomhead from the Coalition for Better Waste Water Management, and Claude Wilson from the South East Alliance for Economic Justice. Bernal resident Steve Shapiro served as moderator. Neighbors cited that emissions of dioxins and other airborne pollutants would present damaging long term health consequences to Bernal and Bay View/Hunter's Point residents.

Overwhelming concern expressed by the audience concluded that 1) they did not trust San Francisco Energy Company testimonials on toxic safety standards, 2) legally ensuring jobs for Bay View/Hunter's Point residents, and 3) San Francisco Energy's concern for shutting down PG&E plants 2&3 and finally 4) the economic development package offered to Bay View/Hunter's Point does not offset the added health costs over 30 years, and that Bernal was not an additional economic development recipient.

After the forum was held, Mayor Brown at the March 9th Community Congress stated that he is opposed to building the proposed power plant.

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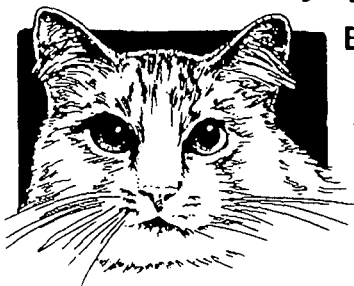
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In the interest of providing equal time in the highly charged debate over the proposed power plant in Bayview / Hunters Point, the New Bernal Journal is presenting, in this issue, opinion pieces from both sides of the debate.

SF Energy Talks Back

by Robert Morgan, SF Energy Director of Site Certification

In January 1994, San Francisco Energy Company won a bid to build a new cogeneration power plant in San Francisco. SF Energy beat PG&E's bid to replace their aging Hunter's Point units '2' and '3,' as well as other companies' bids because we proposed a cleaner, more efficient plant.

The bid required the plant to be located in San Francisco because our city is connected to the electric grid by only a single set of transmission lines running up the peninsula. In order to maintain electricity reliability, a part of our electric needs have to be met by plants in the city.

Site selection required us to find a site that was large enough for our plant, about 6 acres, that is served by natural gas, electric transmission lines, and water. We looked for zoning appropriate for our facility and tried to stay as far away as possible from houses.

We withdrew our proposed site during the California Energy Commission's environmental permitting process because people who lived nearby complained that it was too close to them. The alternative site is on Port land in Bayview Hunter's Point, and is about as far away as you can get in San Francisco from people's homes.

We have endured charges of environmental racism because of our Bayview Hunter's Point site. Believe me, we would have preferred to locate in industrial zoning in a high income neighborhood, as we did in Southern California, to avoid these charges, but such a site does not exist in San Francisco.

Our neighborhood supporters required us to meet two tests: 1) prove that we will be safe and help to reduce air pollution, and 2) provide economic benefits directly to Bayview Hunter's Point. The CEC completed their environmental review on March 4, concluding that we will, "provide a regional net air quality benefit. This in turn will reduce airborne public health risks."

The CEC was quite clear that SF Energy will reduce pollution: "[T]he project will result in both local and regional net PM₁₀ reductions." In addition, we will recycle waste water and remediate a contaminated site with private funds, just the kind of "brownfield" redevelopment initiative supported by President Clinton.

To direct economic benefits to the community we signed a memorandum of understanding with the community committing to hire at least 50% of the construction and operation workforce from Bayview Hunter's Point as well as maximizing the use of local contractors. A community empowerment fund will be set up to support programs which work to improve conditions for all residents of our neighborhood.

SF Energy will be the first major private investment in Bayview Hunter's Point since World War II. Our supporters in the community see us as part of the solution, reducing pollution while bringing jobs and economic activity to the community at a time when many companies have left or are leaving. As the South Bayshore Plan envisions, new industry provides high quality jobs and can, as in our case, help improve the environment by replacing outdated infrastructure. For more information about SF Energy, please call 395-7899 or 550-8594.

Power Plant Environmental Alert

by Beth Abrams

In March of 1996 the California Energy Commission voted 5 to 0 to approve San Francisco Energy's proposed 240 megawatt co-generation (steam and electricity) power plant. The plant will emit 282 tons of airborne pollution annually, with Bernal Heights identified as the MEI (Maximum Exposed Individual).

Bayview / Hunter's Point, which is where the proposed site is located, already has the highest rate of bronchitis, asthma, and respiratory ailments in the city, and the particulate matter which composes much of this pollution, as well as their potential carcinogenic effects, are of great concern to the residents of this neighborhood. Currently, Bayview / Hunter's Point has the highest rate of both breast and cervical cancers in the world! (Bayview / Hunter's Point is already home to two PG&E plants, a sewage treatment plant, a superfund site, and numerous other toxic sites).

The proposed plant will store huge amounts of toxic chemicals on a site which is located on over 40 feet of landfill in a seismically unstable zone between the San Andreas and Hayward fault lines. Among the chemicals stored would be 15,000 gallons of aqueous ammonia. Should this ammonia spill, as the result of a vehicular accident occurring from the constant trucking of the substance, or due to an earthquake, the ammonia would create a vapor cloud which will burn the mucous membranes of whomever is nearby.

The proposed Cargo Way site is .65 of a mile from an elementary school. The natural gas fired plant would also involve the use of highly vulnerable gas lines.

At a meeting held on February 20, at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, a forum was presented which included members of the Bayview Hunter's Point community who both opposed and supported the proposed power plant. At this meeting, attended by approximately one hundred Bernal Heights residents, overwhelming opposition to the plant was expressed. At no time during the 18 month period of hearings held on the plant did the California Energy Commission hold hearings in Bernal Heights, despite the obvious concerns of Bernal residents.

What You Can Do to Stop the Plant

The California Energy Commission's approval of the plant includes a condition that San Francisco Energy Company must secure a lease for the ten acre site, on which the plant is to be built, from the San Francisco Port Commission, and that lease must also be ratified by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The San Francisco Energy Company must also obtain a power purchase agreement from PG&E. This matter should come before the Port Commission very soon. Please write and call them to let them know how you feel. And while you're at it, please also write and call the board of supervisors (if you address it to Kevin Shelley, President and the Board of Supervisors, the clerk will give each supervisor a copy.

Michael Hardeman, Port President/San Francisco Ferry Building, Suite 3100/SF, CA 94111/468-7280 / FAX 468-4004

Board of Supervisors/401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308/SF, CA 94102/554-5184

Mayor Willie Brown/401 Van Ness Ave., Room 336/SF, CA 94102/554-6141

The Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice would like to keep track of the letters, so please cc them a copy of your efforts at: S.A.E.J./744 Innes Ave./SF, CA 94127

For future action regarding the power plant, contact Beth Abrams at 282-6177, or SAEJ at 824-4102.

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Around the Neighborhood

With Gloria Allen

The Hungarian Connection

One recent balmy evening on Cortland Avenue, I sat at a sidewalk table eating crusty bread, pickles, and thinly sliced, delicately spiced sausage. Of course I was at the Hungarian Sausage Factory, which is owned and operated by Imre and Jutka Mándoki, who came here in 1987 after driving on Cortland and seeing the 'For Sale' sign on a run down building which contained two commercial businesses (a print shop behind metal bars and Jake's Barber Shop). They saw in it the potential for a home and garden to raise their family in. Today the building resembles an attractive European chalet. Imre and Jutka, who met in San Francisco at a Hungarian Club folk dance, had returned after living one year in Budapest where Jutka continued her work as a classical pianist (she has an MM from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music) and Imre was assigned to study choreography with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble.

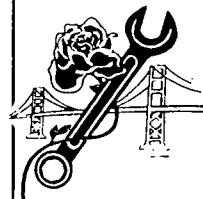
Bernal Heights residents, as well as people from all around, who are eager to dine at the only Hungarian restaurant in the Bay Area, come not just to sample the wonderfully simple and hearty food and drink, but to enjoy the live nightly music, and Hungarian folk dances conducted the last Saturday of each month. With tables decorated with jars of colorful flowers, seats covered in oriental rugs, walls displaying folk art and photo exhibits of Hun-

garian scenes, Imre creates the charming ambiance typical of a small Hungarian inn.

Imre was born in Germany to Hungarian parents who came to southern California by way of Ellis Island in 1950. He speaks fluent Hungarian and enjoys Hungarian culture because, as he says, his parents did not assimilate in America. Imre, on the other hand, is American. He is very community conscious and fiercely individualistic in his views and lifestyle. He served in Vietnam and he has also been a contributor to the development of Cortland Avenue and the improvement of Bernal Heights as a safe and comfortable place to live. He joined the Cortland Merchants Association as it was being reorganized in 1989 and has worked with the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. One of his significant projects was spearheading the drive to keep the Bank of America from closing its Cortland branch.

The Mándoki children, two boys ages 11 and 8, and two girls ages 5 and 2, go to school at home. Several days a week they go to the Bernal Heights public library to read books, play chess, or watch videos.

Imre believes that a vibrant Cortland Avenue benefits both the shop owners and contributes to the quality of life for the entire community and, therefore, it is important that the residents of Bernal support their neighborhood by shopping on Cortland. Stop by and say hello to Imre — the food is great and the music will have you dancing!



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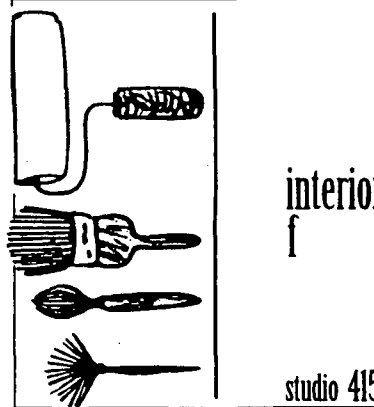
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The Neighborhood Center is available to rent!

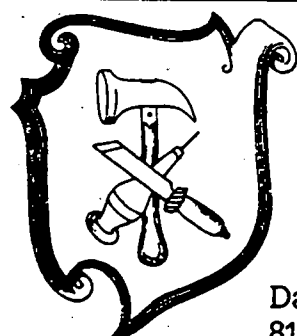
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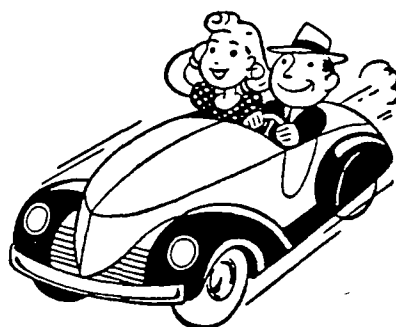
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call Pat Lindstadt at 206-9177 to sign up.
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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

'CONGRESS' FROM PAGE 1
and to assign staff to attend and help implement the community priorities as directed by the issues groups.

Mayor Brown also pointed out that he is opposed to the proposed cogeneration facility in Bayview / Hunters Point and also considers the cross town shaft on Bernal Hill to be a dead issue. He very much favors economic development of the 3rd Street corridor, so that better traffic flow and local business

the first to donate \$1,000 to the 1996 Friends of Bernal campaign. Mayor Brown gladly responded by promising a check for a thousand dollars, saying he likes to set a new standard so others will be challenged to provide more local support.

Tenants and Housing Activists Question Mayor on San Francisco Housing Authority

Tenants activists Malek Rahim and Bebe Castaing, respectively from Bernal Dwellings and Holly

to be torn down so we can build it the right way," said the mayor.

Seniors Demand Greater Safety on MUNI

Seniors questioned Mayor Brown on how soon they can expect a safer, senior-friendly MUNI system. The mayor responded by saying that he is having equipment installed which will better raise and lower the entry step in the busses to help accommodate seniors and disabled commuters. He expects to train drivers in courtesy and pulling up to the curb. Seniors and Mayor Brown will be working on sending a regular representative to the Senior Action Network's Transportation Committee to implement these measures. Seniors reported to the Mayor on the success of NEST, Neighborhood Elders Support Team, which provides emotional support, meals, community resources, and transportation to medical appointments for frail elders.

Youth Activists Demand More Summer Jobs and Outreach Funding to work in the Schools

Outspoken youth leaders told Mayor Brown how the Jordan administration had not helped secure necessary funds for after school programs and summer jobs. They then asked him what he would do to ensure these programs did not disappear. The mayor said that he had just appointed Jeff Mori, long time youth services activist and director of the much acclaimed Japantown Community Youth Center, as the new Director of the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Families (MOCYF). MOCYF is primarily responsible for providing staff funding for all youth services in the city. Also, the mayor requested youth and youth service providers

attend the Youth Summit, which is being arranged by a recent Brown appointee to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Michael Yaki. The mayor said he was confident that the city, in cooperation with the Youth Summit, will open up more summer jobs for youth.

You can win these struggles

Mayor Brown admitted that volunteers taking on some responsi-

Community Organizing meets the first Tuesday of each month. The issues are creating better Recreation and Park Programs at Bernal Playground and Holly Park, Public Safety training including Earthquake Preparedness or Bernal Emergency Response Team (BERT), distributing pooper scoopers and maintaining better street safety against dog poop, and to evaluate whether there should be more pay phones on Cortland Avenue.

The Fundraising Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month. The fundraising committee worked on the BHNC Membership Drive and the Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign. They are producing the 2nd annual Comedy Cabaret, and will start working on our 7th annual Fiesta on the Hill on Cortland Avenue.

Youth Committee meets the third Friday of each month. Topics include access to neighborhood children's programs, youth outings, news writing for local media, and working on the Mayor's Youth Summit. There will also be a *Parent Committee*, which is scheduled to meet the third Tuesday of each month, at 7pm.

Senior Committee meets the first Monday of each month. Hot issues seniors are currently working on are demanding more public safety, providing more needed services to home-bound elders, and fighting against government cutbacks.

The BHNC is looking for volunteers to work on these issues and would like to encourage readers to join a committee and help make a difference.

All meetings are held at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. For more information, call the BHNC at 206-2140.



The organizing break-out group met in the Bernal Library

development could be accommodated.

Fundraising Committee Appeals to Mayor Brown's Charm and Generosity

Seeing an opportunity to acquire fashionable auction pieces, several outgoing neighbors asked Mayor Brown to donate one of his Armani suits and fedoras for a benefit auction for BHNC community activities. Flattered and just a bit embarrassed, Mayor Brown responded that he would donate one of his fedora hats, but that his suits have been asked for by four other groups since his inauguration. Unwilling to taking no for an answer, fundraising volunteer Eva Schiorring asked the mayor to be

Court, voiced their opinion that the San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) has mismanaged their housing. Mayor Brown agreed, and explaining that he hired top gun Kevin Marchman to restructure the organization. Marchman is known to have helped to turn around the Chicago Housing Authority and is acknowledged as a high powered reorganizer of badly run public housing systems.

Brown reported that, while he found it painful to fire many top Housing Authority managers, some of whom were personal friends, the Housing Authority needed restructuring from the top down. "It's just like the Embarcadero Freeway - it needed



Mayor Brown explains why he doesn't give away his suits.

bility to work with seniors for safe transportation, to volunteer at fundraising events, to create more youth after school activities, and to work with tenants on improving public housing can, and will, play a critical role this in success of his administration.

Break out groups worked on and prioritized a variety of topics. They will conduct ongoing meetings in the interest of working on issues, and achieving the goals they set for themselves this Congress. If you would like to become involved, please use the following list of the groups, their meeting times, and the issues they plan to address:

'Bernaltown,' the Movie Receives Coveted Grant

by Gareth Barkin

The neighborhood film project entitled "Bernaltown" recently became the recipient of a \$1,500 grant from the Bay Area Video Coalition. Despite fierce competition from a plethora of independent film makers, project director Gregory Gavin was able to secure the funding for his community-wide undertaking.

More than just a locally made film, the project used neighborhood personalities as actors, and involved many Bernal kids in the movie making process. And as a result of receiving the grant, which will pay for costly time using cutting edge post-production technology, many of the kids who acted in the film will get the opportunity to be involved in its' editing.

"The community outreach people at BAVC have expressed to me that they view *Bernaltown* as a model for community video making..." said Gavin,



This image taken from the 'Bernaltown' T-Shirt

who is artist-in-residence for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, and has helped to start the "BHNC Young Artists and Designers" program.

The next step for the project will be a series of 'completion workshops' to be held in May, and which will involve educational visits to a local sound production studio, as well as an editing facility. Still in need of funds, Gavin has created a *Bernaltown* T-shirt, pictured above, which he plans to have available by the 15th.

For those interested in a 'sneak peek' of the film, Gavin will be holding an open house on May 15, from 3 to 7pm, at which preview footage will be shown, and other projects will be highlighted, including soap box car classes, and other summer programs. The studio is located at 2670 San Bruno Avenue. Call 656-0119 for more information.

Bernal Heights Senior Services Presents: Senior Health Fair

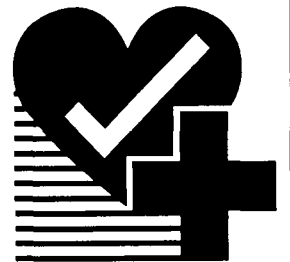
Saturday, 9:00 - 2:00

May 11, 1996

A free community health fair for senior citizens

- Preventative Health Checks & Screenings
- Medication education & counseling by local pharmacists
- Free lunch and Door Prizes

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Bernal Heights Senior Services
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515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco

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• Blood Pressure Checks • and more

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Cinco De Mayo Celebrations

Film Festival

The Bernal Library in collaboration with the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Youth Programs invite you to come watch some of the most acclaimed films about Latino/Chicano cultures. Free admission. There will be prizes and agüinaldos after each film.

Dates: May 1st - May 4th

Location: Bernal Heights Public Library

Wed., May 1st

4:00 PM **"Think Twice"** A short video of images and interviews arranged in a fanciful manner to invite youth to reflect on joining gangs. Producer: Inner City Arts Director: Susan Boyle, Pamela Cohen, & L.A. high school students. 1994, 4 Min. (Eng./Spa.).

"Chulas Fronteras", A documentary of classic Tejano music, culture, and history. Written and produced by Les Blank & Chris Strachwitz. 1994, 86 Min. (Eng./Spa.).

7:00 PM **"Como Agua Para Chocolate"**, La historia se desarrolla a principios de siglo en la frontera norte de México y se trata de los amores prohibidos de Pedro y Tita, quienes se ven obligados a separarse por las costumbres de la época. Basada en la novela de Laura Esquivel y dirigida por Alfonso Arau. 1992, 143 Min. (Español)

Th., May 2nd

4:00 PM **"Alicia, A teenage Chicana struggle with alcoholism"**

A dramatic video that tells the story of one contemporary Latino urban family's struggle with alcohol problems. *Un video drâmatico sobre la historia de una familia urbana y sus problemas con el alcoholismo. La historia se desarrolla al rededor de una adolescente y su relacion problematica con sus padres, hermano y amigos.* Producer: SFSU & ADP Written by Alex Vargas, Directed by Gustavo Vasquez, 30 Min. (Español).

4:30 PM **"Love Between A Boy And A Girl"**

A powerful drama by high school students in San Francisco's Real Alternative Program. The video deals with the violence in the neighborhood and mainly focuses on one teen who becomes HIV positive after having un-safe sex. Produced by Lise Swason & Dr. Francisco Gonzalez. Directed by Real Alternatives Program High School students, 23 Min. (English).

Fr., May 3rd

4:00 PM **"Frida"**

Sat., May 4th

4:00 PM **"Viva la Causa! 500 Years of Chicano History"** Offers a compelling introduction to the history of Mexican American people. Based on *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, a bilingual book edited by Elizabeth Martinez, author of five books and long time activist for social justice.

Co-Directors: Elizabeth Martinez and Doug Norberg. (Eng./Spa.). Special presentation by Co-Director, Elizabeth Martinez.

Piñata Party!

Dress festive to celebrate 5 de Mayo with piñatas made by the Children, youth and seniors of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Bernal Library. Saturday, May 4th, 2:00 PM at the Bernal Playground behind the Library. Best traditional custom will get a colorful prize!! Free. For information call Valentin at the Bernal Library (695-5160) or Lorena (206-2143) at the Neighborhood Center.

"Cinco De Mayo"

An evening of remembrance and celebration of the heroic triumph of the Mexican people over the French invading army on the May 5, 1862's Battle of Puebla, popularly known as "Cinco De Mayo." Friday, May 3rd, from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Dining Room. Free and open to the public.

Youth Dance

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center youths will host a Latin Music dance for the MYEEP Participants on Saturday, May 4th, from 7:00 PM to 11:30 PM.

Piñata Exhibit

Stop by the Bernal Library and check out the piñatas made by the children, youth and seniors of the Bernal Library and the Neighborhood Center who participated in the Spring Break Art Workshop. Exhibit open from April 13th to May 3rd.

Anuncio comunitario:

El centro comunitario y la biblioteca de Bernal Heights les invitan a acompañarnos a celebrar el Cinco de Mayo con una serie de eventos dedicados al pueblo de México y a la cultura latina en general.

Del 1° al 4 de mayo tendremos un festival de cine, que incluye temas de interes para toda la familia. El 3 de mayo le invitamos a participar de un evento cultural sobre el significado de La Batalla de Puebla en nuestros tiempos. El sabado, 4 de mayo, tendremos una fiesta para niños con piñatas, bailes y musica infantil en la biblioteca. Todos los eventos son gratis y no necesita reservaciones para asistir. Para mas informacion visite o llame a Valentin a la biblioteca al 695-5160. Si desea trabajar en estos eventos o por informacion llame a Lorena al centro comunitario al 206-2143.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over seventeen years the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation have been providing vital services to families of Bernal Heights:

Our programs touch the lives of everyone who lives in Bernal Heights, but we need your help to maintain and expand our work.



Join the Neighborhood Center today!



Family membership dues just \$25.00 or... Participate in the Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign with a gift of \$100 or more.

♥ Our daily Senior Program offers social services in Spanish and English, educational and social activities, and a warm meal shared with others to over 400 seniors a year.

♥ Youth Employment Programs offer job readiness, employment training, and placement to approximately 300 youth each year.

♥ The Neighborhood Elder's Support Team reaches out to over 100 frail and isolated elders a year — offering companionship, support services, transportation and minor home repairs to increase safety.

♥ Our Gang Prevention Counseling Program provides youth with healthy role models who help them to stay in school and engage in positive and empowering activities.

♥ Community Organizing efforts have kept the doors of our Library and Bank open, won a long struggle for a new play structure and gym in Bernal Park and produced community events, such as, **Fiesta on the Hill** and **Bernal Heights Community Congress**.

♥ The New Bernal Journal is our bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper which covers key issues, events and people of Bernal Heights — over 8,000 free copies are hand-delivered by neighborhood volunteers.

♥ The Bernal Heights Housing Corporation provides loans and rental housing to make sure that low-income Bernal residents and people with special needs have access to safe and decent affordable housing.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center & Precita Valley Community Center invite your participation in...

San Francisco CARNAVAL '96

ALL Welcome!

Theme: Children's fairy tales, myths & folklore

Ways to Participate: Dance, Rehearsals on Thursdays, 6:30 - 9:30

Parade: 5/26/96

Dancers, Precissionists, Flag Bearers, Allegoria Carriers, Monitors, Drivers, Neighborhood Kings & Queens, and much Much More!

Meetings on: Monday, 4/15 @ 7:30pm, BHNC 515 Cortland Ave. Tuesday, 5/7 @ 7:30pm, Precita Center 534 Precita Ave.

HELP US TO: Design Costumes, body-paint, T-Shirts, Create Floats, Get Materials, Distribute fliers/posters, etc.

Contact: Chaita, Carnival coordinator: 647-3361 or BHNC: 206-2140

Cole Hardware & Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center PARTNERSHIP

10% of your purchases donated to the foundation Everyday!!!

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center has joined Cole Hardware's Community Assistance Partnership Program. Cole Hardware is giving the center 10% of the purchases made by the group's community, everyday of the year!! Earn money for the center while shopping for all of your hardware needs at our stores. The more you spend, the more we give. Just tell the cashier to post the sale to Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (*515). It's that simple.

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Bernal Wish List

Senior Services

Portable sewing machine (must work well), lace, buttons, stuffing, pillows, zippers, large pieces of fabric, dried flowers, pot pourri. Contact 206-2145.

Carnaval

Feathers, boas, sequins, elastic, rhinestones, instruments for Bernal's participation in the Carnaval Parade. Contact 206-2140.

All Members and Friends will be acknowledged in the New Bernal Journal, and will receive our bi-monthly newsletter Memo to Members, which lists community events and program updates. Members & Friends are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Bernal Heights Community Congress on Sat. March 9th.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Apt. # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Date _____ Race/ethnicity (optional) _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

() Regular \$15 () Family \$25 () Senior or Low income \$5

() Youth \$1 () Business \$50 () Supporter \$50 () Friend \$100

Neighborhood Center membership dues benefit all programs of the Neighborhood Center. Friends of Bernal Heights contributions benefit programs of the Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation.

Please mail your contribution to:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center/Housing Corporation
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

For more info on Membership or the Friends Campaign call:
Jess Dugan, Fundraising Coordinator at 206-2156

Bernal Hilltop Natural History Miner's Lettuce It's Not Just for Breakfast Anymore!

by Barbara M. Pitschel

This very wet year has provided conditions that favor some of the more moisture-loving of Bernal's native plants. *Claytonia perfoliata* (formerly *Montia perfoliata*), also known as miner's lettuce or Indian lettuce, is one of these.

Miner's lettuce is an annual in the Portulacaceae or purslane family. Each plant starts life in the spring with a rosette of near-linear leaves. New fleshy spatula-shaped leaves are gradually added to the rosette. A central stalk grows to a height of four to twelve inches, and a pair of leaves fused into a single disk are produced at the top of the stem. "Perfoliate," defined as, "with the leaf entirely surrounding the stem," is the source of the species name "*perfoliata*." A little raceme of tiny white flowers gives the appearance of having pushed its way right through this saucer-like leaf structure. As can be clearly seen in the illustration, this gives the plant a very distinctive appearance, making it easy to recognize and identify. The flowers bloom from February to May and produce shiny black seeds.

The plant's common names derive from its use as a salad green or potherb by native Americans and

early settlers. This crisp succulent leaves have the flavor of lettuce and, like lettuce, they become bitter with age. These little plants are said to be excellent when boiled and well seasoned, and they have



long been grown in England, where they are highly esteemed in salads.

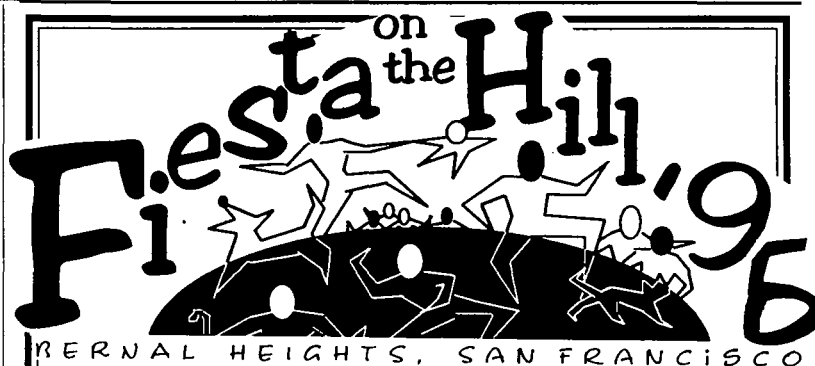
An interesting anecdote concerning early culinary enhancement of this plant is reported in Mary Elizabeth Parsons' *The Wild Flowers of California*. The Placer

County Indians apparently had a novel way of preparing their *Claytonia* salad. They gathered stems and leaves and laid them around the entrances to the red ant nests. As the ants swarmed out of their nests, they ran all over the miner's lettuce. After a time, the people would collect the leaves and shake off the ants, satisfied that they had imparted to the lettuce a pleasant sour taste similar to that of vinegar.

The plant prefers shade. In full sun, miner's lettuce leaves turn bright reddish and the taste becomes sugary. The red is a sign of excess sugar, some of which is converted to protective pigments.

This is a variable species, native throughout California. Environmentally distinct forms occur north to British Columbia, south to Central America, and east to the Great Basin. Miner's lettuce grows on the north side of Bernal Hilltop. It is usually seen on the upper north slope, but also occurs along other north-facing places, including the roadside.

You can see this little plant and many of our showier wildflowers when you join us for the Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project work parties on the third Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. For details, call me at 282-5066.



**Attention Bernal
Artists! Volunteers!
Fundraisers!
Merrimakers!**

**Your help is needed
to plan
Fiesta on the Hill '96!
Coming this October**

**Your participation will help to make our
community street festival one of the
best ever!**

**WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT NEIGHBORHOOD
SUPPORT & PARTICIPATION!**

**Come to a brainstorming meeting at the
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue
Tuesday, April 30, 1996, 6:30 p.m.**

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*The University of California San Francisco
invites you to a series of informational meetings to discuss the Draft Long Range Development Plan (LRDP),
which will guide UCSF's physical development over the next 15 years.*

April 9, 7:00 PM, Tuesday
County Fair Building
9th & Lincoln
Golden Gate Park

Parking: Validated parking at UCSF garage (enter 2nd & Irving)
Transit: MUNI - 44 and 71 buses stop at 9th and Lincoln; 43 stops at 9th and Judah

◆◆◆

April 11, 7:00 PM, Thursday
Brisbane Community Center
250 Visitacion Avenue
Brisbane

Parking: Ample street parking
Transit: 24B Samtrans stops on Visitacion at Mariposa and Klamath Streets

◆◆◆

April 23, 7:00 PM, Tuesday
Japanese Community Center
1840 Sutter at Webster

Parking: Validated parking at Japan Center Garage
(on Webster between Sutter and Post Streets)
Transit: MUNI 2, 3, and 4 stop at Sutter and Buchanan; 22 on Fillmore and Sutter

◆◆◆

April 30, 7:00 PM, Tuesday
Mission Language and Vocational School
2929 19th Street
(enter Alabama)

Transit: MUNI - 27 stops on Bryant (2 blocks)

May 7, 7:00 PM, Tuesday
ILWU Hall
4 Berry Street
(near Embarcadero)

Parking: ILWU Parking lot
(enter on Berry Street past 2nd Street)
Transit: MUNI 15 stops at China Basin

◆◆◆

May 14, 7:00 PM, Tuesday
Bay Farm School
200 Aughinbaugh Way at Bridgeway
Bay Farm Island
Alameda

Parking: School parking lot
Transit: AC Transit 63 and 49 to Aughinbaugh and Macartney

◆◆◆

May 20, 7:00 PM, Tuesday - EIR PUBLIC HEARING
Laurel Heights Auditorium
3333 California Street at Presidio
Sub-level 1

Parking: Free Parking at the Laurel Heights parking lot
Transit: MUNI 1, 3, 4 and 43 buses stop at California and Presidio

◆◆◆

*Copies of the LRDP Summary, the Draft LRDP, and the Draft
Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be obtained from the
UCSF Public Affairs office at 3333 California Street, Suite 103, or
by calling 476-3206.*

UCSF Ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

If at any time you feel you have a need for accommodation, please contact UCSF Community & Governmental Relations at 476-3206
with your suggested accommodation at least 3 working days prior to any scheduled meeting.

The following is the opinion of a concerned Bernal resident.

Double Crossed on the Crosstown (Sewage) Tunnel

DPW TRYING to NARROW THE "ALTERNATIVE" STUDY

by Jeff Marmer

There are three things I'd like to communicate in this article:

(1.) The Crosstown Tunnel remains a real threat. As late as two months ago (Feb. 1st of this year) Todd Cockburn, head of DPW's Clean Water Program, wrote to the Regional Water Quality Control Board: "We still believe in [the tunnel's] viability. We therefore intend to retain it as a long range option." In addition, it's alive in the federally-funded, Regional Water Recycling Plan - currently under study. Both schemes dump huge volumes of wastewater right near the Monterey and Gulf of Farallones Marine Sanctuaries.

(2.) Only a full, fair, independent study of environmentally sound alternatives can offer an alternative plan.

(3.) The 'alternative' study, which the Coalition has been negotiating, is presently being undermined and marginalized by DPW.

"If you're not outraged, you haven't been paying attention"

This recently spotted bumper sticker sums up the feelings of members of the Coalition for Better Wastewater Solutions. For two years citizens have spent hundreds of volunteer hours trying to get the city to find better solutions to its

stormwater/sewage overflows in the bay.

After 10 months of difficult but seemingly good faith negotiations, Coalition members feel betrayed and outraged by DPW's recent maneuvers to severely limit the scope and vision of the 'Alternative' Study. Quietly and without notice, the key phrase from the Board of Supervisors Resolution (which calls for the broader study), was unilaterally altered from previously agreed language defining the scope — just before it went to a key group of scientists for review.

When brought to the attention of the DPW by Coalition members at the 2/29/96 public meeting on the hill, it was said to be "unintentional." In fact, Todd Cockburn invited Coalition members to resubmit it, calling for "trust." But when resubmitted, DPW staff steadfastly refused to reinstate it in the latest definition of scope. Why the retreat from previously worked out wording, and why the new stonewalling? Further, while spending millions on traditional engineering studies, DPW has floated a paltry \$150,000 for the study of environmentally beneficial alternatives.

BEWARE THE 800 LB. GORILLA (*too early to talk about it... too late to do anything about it.*)

The Regional Plan is currently underway and slated to be finished in three years. This project comes with federal sponsorship (federal \$, federal power) and Central Valley support. The Bureau of Reclamation is under pressure to "solve" the drainage wastewater problem in the Central Valley. The Central

Valley (the 800 lb. gorilla) would rather drain its problem to the ocean, and have the feds (read: taxpayers) pay for it, than clean up their own act. They've been trying to get this drain for 30 years! At the Recent meeting in Bernal, again DPW claimed Central Valley wasn't interested. Yet in an article "Valley Farms: Pacific Drain", *The Fresno Bee* quotes Dan Nelson, director of the San Luis/Delta-Mendota Authority in the Central Valley, "Valley interests are determined to follow up on the pipeline proposal, which represents their first chance in more than a decade to get drainage for the valley. If it turns out that all we can get is a limited outlet, then so be it." (8.28.94.)

DPW, sensing a new loophole in the Basin plan, is trying to get out of the Cease and Desist Order - and make a bolt for the door. They've applied for an "exception" to the Basin Plan - the plan which translates Clean Water Act policy for the Bay. Instead of cleaning up Bayview there going to leave it with a slight improvement - 150 million gallons of secondary sewage in the Creek, instead of 150 million gallons of primary sewage - which will now be shifted to the Bay. If they can narrow

the alternative study to the CDO, and the CDO gets lifted, well... (You do the math).

However the Coalition believes they are violating the clear intent of the concerned public and the Board of Supervisors Resolution in trying to narrow the study. Even if the CDO goes away, the Regional Plan/with the Crosstown Tunnel is still a threat, and still under study. And the problem of pollution in the Bay and the problems it has created for Bayview still exist. Therefore there is no justifiable reason to be narrowing this study.

CALL or WRITE:

Please call or write to the following people and organizations, and tell them how you feel about the situation. Also, for more information or to get more involved, call The Coalition for Better Wastewater Solutions at 285-2429 or

282-6177. Or write 3435 Cesar Chavez Suite 208, S.F., Ca, 94110

The Mayor:

554-6141 / FAX: 554-6160

401 VAN NESS AV. Rm. 336, 94102

Board of Supervisors:

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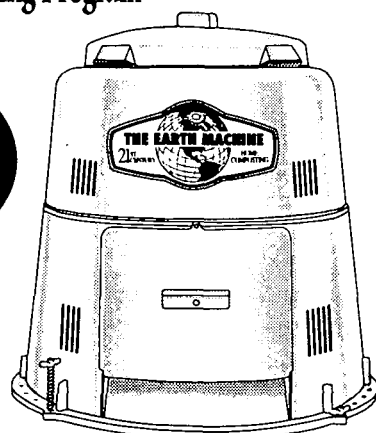
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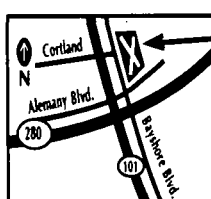
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MONDAY

Cortland Merchants Association Meeting

All Bernal Heights Merchants are invited to participate at the Cortland Merchants Association monthly meetings. April 8th at 6:30pm at the Barking Basset. Call David Rogers at 826-5089 for more information.

Carnaval Planning Meeting

Come help out with Bernal Heights' entry into San Francisco's famed Carnaval parade. See page 11 for more information. The meeting will take place April 15 at 7pm in the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. 206-2140.

TUESDAY

Spanish Conversation Social

Meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7pm. Call Valentin at the Bernal Heights Library for more details, 695-5160.

Jazz Guitar

Alex Candelaria plays every Tuesday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory and Bistro, 419 Cortland, 6:30pm, no cover, 648-2847.

WEDNESDAY

It's Story Time with Sophie at Bernal Books!

April 3rd and 17th at 11am. All preschoolers welcome for stories and songs. Storytime lasts about half and hour. For more info, call 550-0293.

Spanish Conversation Social

Meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7pm. Call Valentin at the Bernal Heights Library for more details, 695-5160.

Hungarian Gypsy Violinist

Every Wednesday night Tibor Horvath & Lena, Gypsy Violinist and Piano accompanist, at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Bingo

Every Wednesday Bingo at St. Kevin's. Games include Safari, Criss-cross, Good neighbor. Doors open at

Bernal Calendar

Seven Days A Week

6 PM. First game at 7:30 PM at Old Hall. (Entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

THURSDAY

Escola Nova de Samba

Participat in evenings of dance and percussion. Every Thursday at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 6:30-9pm. For mor info, call Chanita @ 647-3361 or Glen @ 295-6009.

Jazz Piano

Randy Craig, jazz pianist and composer, plays every Thursday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Deli Jazz

Every Thursday night at 7pm to 10pm Michael Gold on Saxophone, Paul Mindrup on Piano and Lee Alexander on Bass jam for you. The Deli Pub.

"Pizza for Poets"

Get pizza for reading your poetry! Every Thursday at Maverick's Coffee House, 300 Chenery St., Glen Park. Sign-up is at 7pm, readings start at 8pm. For more info, call 584-7759.

FRIDAY

National Poetry Month Extravaganza!!!

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Bernal Books will be hosting a special event honoring the place of poetry in our lives. Local poet Grace Grafton and Katherine Harer of Skyline Community College will be reading their work and that of their students. For more info, please call Bernal Books at 550-0293.

Improvisational Pianist

Pianist Zsolt Szima on Friday, April 5th at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 6:30pm, no cover.

St. Kevin's Church Annual Festival

Come explore a grand Safari of

games, prizes, booths, food and more at the Parish's annual fundraiser. Grand prize drawing of \$2,100 on Sunday. Latin, Filipino and American dinners served. Fun for all ages! Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 17, 18, 19. 6:00 - 10:00 pm (open at 1:00 on Sunday). St. Kevin's Church, Ellsworth Street at Cortland Avenue, 648-5751.

SATURDAY

Bernal Books 1st Birthday!

Join us from 1-4pm on Saturday May 4 for festivities and feast! Food, drink, sidewalk painting for the kids and a sale for the grown-ups-10% off all books all day long! For more info, call Bernal Books at 550-0293.

Flamenco Guitar

Gyorgy Vass plays Classical and Flamenco Guitar at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 6:30pm, no cover.

Senior Health Fair

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 - 2:00. Free preventative health checks and screenings, information and advice for seniors, provided by local health providers and groups. The fair features a "Brown Bag Medicine Review" where seniors can bring in all of their prescription and over-the-counter drugs to be reviewed for proper usage and surveyed for dangerous combinations or misuse. Door prizes and free bag lunch. Pre-registration required. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. Call Bernal Heights Senior Services, 206-2145.

Precita Neighbors Meeting.

Join your neighbors to discuss issues and events relevant to the community. Meet at Saint Anthony's Church at 10am on April 13.

SUNDAY

Champagne Bingo

Doors open at 12:00 noon and winners receive \$30 payouts, \$2.50 good neighbors. \$10 includes 7 Bingo cards

and complimentary champagne, sandwiches, popcorn coffee, punch and homemade cakes. Giant grocery raffle! St. Kevin's Church Hall (Enter on Ellsworth Street), 648-5751.

Hungarian Folk Music

Every Sunday night the Hungarian folk band Forgatos plays at dinner time at the Hungarian Sausage Factory, 6:30pm, no cover.

Bernal Books

Please join us as we host a reception for local artist and set designer Loren Hillman. Loren's work will be on display for stories and songs. May 5th from 2-4pm. For more info, call Bernal Books at 550-0293.

Events for Families, Kids and Teens

National Library Week

For more information, call Valentin at the Bernal Heights Library for more details, 695-5160.

Christmas in April.

Skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to help repair and renovate the homes of low income, elderly and disabled Bernal residents on April 27. Join hundreds of neighbors and local businesses for this annual, old fashioned 'barn raising'! For more information, contact Christmas in April at 906-1611.

Monday

SKY

St. Kevin's Youth Program. SKY meets every Monday at 7 PM. Meet at Old Hall (entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

Tuesday

Children's Videos

Every Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM the Library shows videos for kids ages 3 through 7. At the Bernal

Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

The Reptile Club

Meets Tuesdays at 4 PM at the Bernal Heights Library.

Homework Center

Every Tuesday evening 5-8 PM. Homework help available for school kids of all ages. Starting in December Homework help will also be available on Wednesday evenings. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Wednesday

Family Night

Every Wednesday at 7.30 PM is Family Night at the Library. Story hour, films, crafts, and entertainment for the whole family. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Thursday

Children's Story Hour

Ongoing program every Thursday at 11:30am. Thirty minutes of reading for pre-schoolers. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Art Classes

Art classes every Thursday from 2-6pm with Greg Gavin at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

Friday

Chess Club

Every Friday at 4 PM. Chess Club at the Library. Girls especially encouraged. Adults also welcome to come teach and play. At the Bernal Heights Library.

Club Magic

Meet every Friday at 4 PM at the Library. Cards, games and stories, similar to Dungeons and Dragons. For teens at the Bernal Heights Library.

Bernal Heights groups, merchants, schools, block clubs and non-profits are invited to submit their special events and meeting announcements in the Bernal calendar. Small photographs or graphics can be included if space allows. Please submit your announcements to New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, CA 94110

The Mayor's COLUMN

by Willie Brown

In keeping with my promise to revitalize all aspects of the City's economy, I will convene a major San Francisco Economic Summit on April 16 and 17. And in keeping with my vow to involve the City's neighborhoods in all aspects of my administration, I brought my plans for the Summit directly to the community last month to get the message out.

Using the Mission District's legendary York Theater as a backdrop, on March 14 I announced my agenda for the upcoming Summit, which take place at the Fairmont Hotel and which will be modeled largely on the one I convened at the state level in 1993. That summit was co-hosted by Gov. Wilson and was extremely productive for the state of California.

The idea is to call together representatives of everyone who has a stake in San Francisco economy, bring together the best hearts and minds, and hammer out realistic solutions for improving this city economy.

I chose the York Theater, the new home of Brava! for Women in the Arts, as stage for my announcement, because I feel Brava's purchase of the theater is a perfect example of the kind of government/community partnerships I believe will revitalize San Francisco's neighborhoods.

The York, which has sat empty for the past several years, will now house Brava — a nationally recognized theater company which is renowned for the creation and promotion of new American Theater works by women of color and lesbian playwrights. With the opening of the new theater, which was purchased in part with money from the City's Redevelopment Agency, Brava will provide job training for youth and an economic boost for surrounding businesses.

For the record, the arts industry contributes \$1.3 billion to San Francisco's economy each year. In fact, one out of 11 jobs in this city are arts-related. That accounts for some 40,000—50,000 jobs.

Announcing my plans for the San Francisco Economic Summit at a historic, newly refurbished theater in the Mission District sends the message that every community and industry in San Francisco has a stake in the economic future of this city.

The April summit will set the stage for San Francisco's economic revitalization as it enters the 21st century. The summit will be held in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel and will address:

- San Francisco's economic strengths and trends
- The City's economic infrastructure
- San Francisco as an international city
- The arts and community revitalization

Scheduled speakers will include George Schultz, former US Secretary of State and Hoover Institute fellow; State Treasurer Matt Fong; and U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

In addition to the major Economic Summit in April, I called for five community-based "mini summits," beginning last month, to deal with Arts, Small Business, Labor, Communities of Color, and Youth.

SCHOOL STUFF

by Jill Wynns, SF Board of Education member & Bernal resident

At a time when all public institutions are under attack, and "privatizing" is presented as a panacea for unsatisfactory services, public schools are still the one public institution which directly affects most Americans. Most of us attended public schools, sent our children to public schools, attend neighborhood meetings in a public school, play basketball in a public school yard or collect social security paid, for the most part, by public school graduates. We all see yellow school buses on the street and watch school children walking to and from their schools.

In our own neighborhood, we have three public elementary schools: Leonard R. Flynn, Paul Revere, and Junipero Serra. Even so, many of our children attend alternative schools and leave the hill for other neighborhoods.

We are entering a new period in American public education. The school in your neighborhood is being re-invented as a community center. Schools are reaching out to parents, neighbors, and other community members because they have come to realize that they cannot effectively serve children without including their families and communities. Programs like Healthy Start and "Beacon" centers are developing services or the entire community. We hope that you will start to see schools differently and spend more time in them.

Paul Revere School, at 555 Tompkins Avenue, is one of these schools. It is a Healthy Start site. Healthy Start is a state program to bring "school-linked" services to a school in order to serve the whole child and the whole family. Research has shown that student success is likely to increase when all the needs of the child are met. The healthy, stress-free child is better able to learn. At Paul Revere an after school arts workshop has been developed. A Family Resource Center with staff serves the parents. San Francisco State Social Work interns work in every classroom two or three days a week. They provide counseling, referrals and case management services. They do lots of home visits, therapy groups and work with small groups of parents at school. The staff works with South East Family Services, the Bay View Mental Health Children's Challenge Project and many public agencies. The grant for this project will expire at the end of this school year. Private funds must be found to continue this vital work.

Exciting things are also going on at Junipero Serra and Leonard R. Flynn, as well as many other schools in San Francisco. We will look at some of these, including the development of "Beacon" Schools, in later columns.

I encourage you to get to know the schools in your community. Visit a local school during Public Schools Week, April 8 - 12. Volunteer a few hours of your time. See what public schools have to offer you. Working with children can enrich your life in many ways. You can rediscover the wonder of story-telling, of history, of kickball. You can make new friends, both young and old. You can make a significant difference in the success of a student. Make a public school one of the regular stops on your rounds, help to make the public school the best used and most loved place in the neighborhood.



Saying Goodbye to a Remarkable Woman

Mary Litzius Foy,
March 26, 1917 - April 2, 1996

Mary Foy was truly a remarkable woman. She had a radiance, sense of humor, courage and spunk that made her stand out from the rest. Her caring and concern for others was never ending. A massive stroke was the only thing that could stop Mary. At a lively 79, she suddenly left us much too soon.

All of her glorious 79 years were lived in her Bonview Street home where she was born in 1917. Mary watched Bernal Heights grow and change over several decades and was an entertaining oral historian who delighted sharing stories of the past with others. In those years, she made many friends and became one of Bernal's most beloved residents.

Mary developed her remarkably strong will and character from having to raise her six children on her own. A loving mother, she could often be heard bragging about the talents, beauty, adventures and escapades of her children and grandchildren.

For 17 years, Mary devoted a good portion of her life to the Senior Program at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. As a volunteer, staff member, and tireless supporter, she passionately dedicated herself to making the Center's Senior Program one of the best in the City.

The Vigil for Mary will be held on **Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Driscoll's Mortuary** on South Van Ness at 23rd Street in San Francisco. The funeral mass will take place on **Tuesday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Kevin's Church** on Cortland Avenue at Ellsworth Street.

On **Friday, April 12 from 4:00 - 6:30**, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue (at Andover Street) will hold a **memorial** to celebrate the life of Mary. Friends, family, neighbors and anyone who was touched by this remarkable woman are invited to attend to reminisce about how Mary made us smile, laugh and enjoy life.

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